

Honorable Brandenburg and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Sue Hart and I live in Genesee County. I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1993 and was forced to resign from the US Post Office in 1994. Some of the main reasons for retiring were spasticity, balance issues, weakness, and fatigue. I started using an electric scooter to run errands. A few years later complications caused by a car accident forced me to use a wheelchair all the time in and out of the house.

We had to move out of our family home due to a leaking roof, black mold, and asbestos siding. There was no way that we had money for all these repairs. We applied for home improvement LOANS for the roof through Genesee County and through Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and were denied because they said we made too much money to qualify. We paid to have an inspection and found the mold issue. So, we then began looking for places to live. It was so frustrating trying to find an accessible apartment, condo, mobile home, etc due to the lack of accessible housing. The other difficulty was finding an accessible apartment or condo, and then being told that you do not qualify due to income eligibility. After at least 3 months our family decided to help us out.

We eventually found a mobile home that we had to borrow the money to add the accessible features so I could get in and around the home. That cost a total of approximately \$8,000. Some of the accessible modifications that we had to have were:

- New ramp to be able to get in the home
- Approximately 3 36" doors in order to get the wheelchair in and out of rooms and home
- Walk in shower, hand held shower nozzle, grab bars, and an ADA toilet

I am not complaining about the affordable housing income guidelines because there are way too many people with disabilities that need that. I am just saying there are not many options available for middle class people with disabilities. I believe that SB 395 would help people that are middle class out by being able to claim some home modifications for tax deduction. Not having the ability to come up with that much money for these modifications has left many people with disabilities priced out of adequate housing. Attached with this information is a list with some costs that were incurred. Thanks for your time,